

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/824,472

Examiner

Leah S. Lovell

Applicant(s)

VENKATRAM, SANJIV

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04/15/2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>04/15/2004</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed in view of the prior art.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

In regard to claim 1, the prior art of record, taken either alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an indicating instrument consisting of: a dial having a front and rear face with indicating marks on the background face; a concave reflector positioned behind the dial such that an interior space is created, the reflector having an opening opposite to the rear face of the dial, and, furthermore, a hollow, cylindrical tube extending toward the opening; a circuit board positioned behind the reflector such that a section of the printed circuit board is exposed through the opening in the reflector; and two sets of different colored lights mounted on the printed circuit board such that the first, inner set is located under the hollow portion of the cylindrical tube and the second, outer set is positioned outside the cylindrical tube. Additionally, the cylindrical wall is set at a predetermined distance from the printed circuit board to allow light from the first, inner set of lights to "leak" from the center of the hollow, cylindrical tube and be reflected to light the background of the dial. The second, outer set of lights illuminates the indicting marks of the dial.

Regarding claim 15, the prior art of record, taken either alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method to illuminate a dial using two different colored light sources; one light source to illuminate a pointer and a background field of the dial and the second light source to illuminate the

Art Unit: 2875

indicating marks. Furthermore, the prior art fails to show or teach this combination containing two different color filters for each the background field and the indicating marks; the reflecting surface under the dial face to direct light from the first, inner and second, outer, different colored light source to the pointer and the indicating marks, respectively; and light from the first, inner light source to be reflected by the second reflecting surface to light the background field.

In regard to claim 16, the prior art of record, taken either alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a reflector to direct light to a display surface comprising: a concave wall to position behind the display surface with an opening located opposite to the display surface; a segment that extends into the concave section; and a hollow tube with both ends open where one end is connected to the edge of the concave wall, while the other is suspended over the opening in the reflector.

Conclusion

3. Prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure follows: Obata (US 6,595,667), Nakane (US 2002/0002941), Ikarashi et al (US 2002/0135994). Obata teaches a measuring dial comprising a plurality of light sources and reflector behind a dial face. The reflector comprises a portion that overhangs and extends toward the light sources; therefore leaving a gap for light to leak toward the background field. Nakane teaches a dial comprising a plurality of lights to back light a pointer. It is further taught of a light guiding plate to direct light to both the pointer and background field. Ikarashi teaches an instrument dial comprising a dial face, 2

Art Unit: 2875

sets of lights, and a reflector. One set of light is to light the pointer, while the second lights the background field. The two sets are separated by a cylindrical hollow tube connecting from the bottom of the reflector plate to the back of the dial face.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leah S. Lovell whose telephone number is (571) 272-2719. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:45 a.m. until 4:15 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee Luebke can be reached on (571) 272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Art Unit: 2875

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Leah S Lovell
Examiner
12 August 2005



RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER